

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SPC-01 EB-03 IO-03 DRC-01 /067 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3073

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3519

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5909

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDEN-SHARING

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH DECEMBER 4, CATALANO (ITALY) ASKED WHETHER THE SUBSTANCE OF BURDEN-SHARING COULD NOT BE LEFT TO THE NAC COMMUNIQUE RATHER THEN BE TAKEN UP IN DETAIL IN THE DPC COMMUNIQUE. DE ROSE (FRANCE) INTERJECTED THAT THE PROBLEM HAD ALWAYS BEEN HANDLED AT 14, NOT 15. THIS PROMPTED DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) TO COUNTERATTACK FORCEFULLY WITH THE COMMENT THAT FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT CONTINUES TO SAY THAT THE U.S. MUST STAY IN EUROPE, BUT THEN THE FRENCH SAY THAT BURDEN-SHARING IS UP TO THE 14 TO HANDLE. DE STAERCKE SAID THIS SITUATION WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

2. DE ROSE SAID THAT FRANCE SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR THE SITUATION SINCE THE REST OF THE COUNCIL WAS NOT UN-ANIMOUS ON SHARING THE BURDEN ANYWAY. DE ROSE ALSO SAID THAT THE U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON BURDEN-SHARING INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL ON NOV. 29 HAD NOT MENTIONED CHANGING CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO BUDGETS. DE STAERCKE AGAIN TOOK ISSUE BY COMMENTING THAT CHANGING THE SHARES OF NATO BUDGETS WAS CERTAINLY PART OF THE SUBJECT. DE ROSE THEN VOICED A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE REFERENCE TO FRANCE IN THE U.S. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

ON BURDEN-SHARING.

3. THIS AGAIN PROMPTED DE STAERCKE TO FORCEFULLY LAY IT ON THE LINE BY ASKING WHAT THE ALLIES WOULD DO IF THE U.S. JUST CUT ITS SHARE SAY, OF THE NATO BUDGETS BY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE. WOULD FRANCE JUST SIT THERE AND WOULD THE OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TRY TO TAKE UP A LARGER SHARE OF THE BURDEN? DE STAERCKE STRESSED THAT U.S. LAW WOULD REQUIRE THE U.S. TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT IF THE ALLIES DID NOT COOPERATE AND HE WONDERED WHY THE ALLIES COULD NOT TRY TO REMEDY THE SITUATION BEFORE THE U.S. WAS FORCED TO ACT UNILATERALLY. HE SAID WE MUST DO IT; LET US DO IT WITH A SMILE. (COMMENT: AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE WAS MOST HELPFUL. AMBASSADOR DE ROSE WAS DISTINCTLY UNHAPPY WITH THIS DISCUSSION.)
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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